

Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 SCCT-01 AF-08 SAM-01 /100 W

----- 031411

R 061502Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8441

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

CONSUL JERUSALEM 732

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, UG

SUBJECT: SYRIA CONDEMNS ISRAELI OPERATION TO FREE AIR FRANCE
CAPTIVES

REF: DAMASCUS 4270

1. JULY 6 MEDIA REPORTED CABLE FROM PRES. ASAD TO PRES.
AMIN OF UGANDA COMDEMNING "SAVAGE ACT OF AGRESSION
COMMITTED BY ISRAEL "AGAINST UGANDA. ASAD CLAIMED THAT
OPERATION PROVED ISRAELI DISREGARD FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW
AND FOR LIVES OF INNOCENT PASSENGERS.

2. SYRIAN PRESS HEADLINED INCIDENT: "WORLD DENOUNCES
TREACHEROUS ZIONIST RAID OF ENTEBBE AIRPORT. AFRICAN
SUMMIT CONFERENCE ASKS SECURITY COUNCIL FOR IMMEDIATE
MEETING. WALDHEIM DESCRIBES RAID AS FLAGRANT AGRESSION."
ONE PRESS COLUMNIST TERMED ACTION A "CHALLENGE TO AFRICA."
ANOTHER DENOUNCED PRES. FORD'S CABLE OF SUPPORT TO ISRAEL.
THIRD URGED THAT RAID BE AN INCENTIVE FOR ARABS TO
INCREASE THEIR SOLIDARITY.

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3. COMMENT: IT NOT SURPRISING THAT SARG, WHICH

STRONGLY CONDEMNED ORIGINAL HIJACKING (REFTEL), WOULD
SHOW EQUAL FERVOR IN DENOUNCING ISRAELI RESCUE OPERATION.
IDI AMIN SPENT THREE-DAY VISIT IN DAMASCUS LAST MONTH AND
HAS SINCE PRAISED ASAD'S HANDLING OF LEBANESE CRISIS,
DEFENDING HIM AGAINST CHARGES OF PERSECUTING PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE. UGANDAN ALSO PAID WIDELY PUBLICIZED VISIT TO
DAMASCUS JEWISH QUARTER, FACT WHICH LOCAL VOICE OF PALESTINE
COMMENTATOR RECALLED IN DAMASCUS BROADCAST, AFTER ENTEBBE
RAID. HE ASSERTED THAT UGANDAN LEADER NOT ANTI-JEWISH AND
HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING HONORABLY FOR RELEASE OF HOSTAGES UNTIL
ISRAELI RAID PREEMPTED HIS EFFORTS.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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